

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4228
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UNCLAS ROME 13032

DEPT. PASS WHITE HOUSE, OFFICE MR. HARDIN

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: OVP, SPN, IT (CARER, LILLIAN)
SUBJ: MISS LILLIAN'S VISIT TO ITALY--TOAST FOR MINISTER
ANSELMI DINNER

1. MINISTER ANSELMI, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I AM DELIGHTED TO BE IN ROME AND WANT TO THANK YOU FOR SELECTING SUCH A GLORIOUS LOCATION FOR THIS DINNER. I CANNOT IMAGINE A PLACE MORE PLEASANT IN WHICH TO PASS A FEW HOURS IN THE COMPANY OF FRIENDS DURING MY VISIT TO YOUR CITY.

2. I BRING YOU WARM PERSONAL GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER, WHO ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU HOW MUCH HE, OUR NATION, AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE VALUE OUR CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH ITALY. THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY, TOO MANY FOR ME TO MENTION IN A BRIEF TOAST. OUR RELATIONSHIP TO ITALY THROUGH THE NATO ALLIANCE IS A CORNERSTONE OF US FOREIGN POLICY. OUR DIRECT, BILATERAL RELATIONS--THROUGH TRADE, TOURISM AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE--ARE ENORMOUSLY FRUITFUL AND BENEFICIAL TO US, AS WE HOPE THEY ARE TO ITALY. WE ARE PARTICULARLY AWARE OF THE DEBT WE OWE TO MILLIONS OF ITALIAN-AMERICANS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE GROWTH OF MODERN AMERICA.

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3. THESE THOUGHTS SUGGEST THE DEEPER REASONS WHY WE TREASURE OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH ITALY, REASONS RELATING TO WHAT YOUR COUNTRY IS TODAY AND WHAT IT HAS ALWAYS REPRESENTED IN THE WORLD: THE DIGNITY AND WORTH OF MAN. THIS SIMPLE PHRASE CALLS UP THOSE BELIEFS THAT MY COUNTRY, LIKE YOUR OWN, HOLDS DEAR. IT CALLS FOR THE IDEALS--

PARTICULARLY THOSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS--THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SOUGHT TO EMBODY IN HIS POLICIES, AT HOME AND ABROAD.

4. BECAUSE ITALY HELPED SHAPE THESE IDEALS AND STANDS TODAY TOGETHER WITH THE UNITED STATES IN THEIR DEFENSE, WE WANT TO THANK YOU AND TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WILL GROW EVEN STRONGER IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

5. AND NOW LET ME ASK YOU TO JOIN ME IN A TOAST TO ITALY, THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE WARMTH OF THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES.GARDNER

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